Appointment on compassionate grounds by VSNL, Bombay

3523. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Bombay has not yet cleared the applications for employment on compassionate grounds;

(b) whether VSNL has received a number of applications from sons and daughters of its erstwhile employees, who died in harness; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, VSNL has made compassionate appointments from time to time.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) VSNL has received approximately 50 applications for compassionate apponitments during the period 1994-95. Ten appointments have already been made. The company has not been able to consider all the cases for appointments due to lack of vacancies and surplus staff in certain cadres caused by Tecnnology changes.

Opening of post offices in Madhya Pradesh Villages

3524. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 87, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 1994 and state :

(a) how many new Post Offices were opened in the villages of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, with district-wise details thereof;

(b) how many post offices are likely to be opened in the villages of the State during the next three years;

(c) whether Government propose to provide one post office in every village of Madhya Pradesh during Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(d) whether Government are aware that the number of Postmen posted in post offices of rural Madhya Pradesh is inadequate, which is adversely affecting the postal services in the villages; and

(e) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) the district-wise details of 146 post offices opened in the villages of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given in he enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Post offices are opened progressively under Plan schemes, subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of resources.

(d) and (e) Justified delivery staff is provided on the basis of workload and postal services in villages are not known to be affected adversely due to inadequate staff.